

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

DODE-00 IO-13 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5828

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, MILI, BQG, GE

SUBJECT: GDR NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

REFS: (A) USBERLIN 2520, (B) BERLIN 7632, (C) BERLIN 7590,  
(D) STATE 233891, (C) USBERLIN 2592

1. GDR CELEBRATED THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT OCTOBER 7 WITH A COMBINATION OF A MILITARY PARADE, PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT AND A GALA BALL FOR TOP LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

2. THE MILITARY PARADE LASTED SOMEWHAT LESS THAN AN HOUR AND FEATURED MOTORIZED TROOPS, INCLUDING FOOT SOLDIERS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, INFANTRY COMBAT VEHICLES, SELF-PROPELLED AA GUNS, HEAVY ARTILLERY, VARIOUS ROCKET LAUNCHERS, GUIDED ANTI-TANK MISSILE VEHICLES AND MEDIUM AND HEAVY TANKS. THE PARADE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXCLUSIVELY MILITARY IN CHARACTER AND WAS BILLED AS SUCH. NO CIVILIAN GROUPS WERE INVOLVED. DESPITE PLEASANT WEATHER AND EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY IN ADVANCE, THE TURNOUT DID NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY GREAT AND THE MOOD OF THE CROWDS SEEMED SUBDUED.

3. DURING THE AFTERNOON A LARGE, OUTDOOR PUBLIC

FESTIVAL WAS ORGANIZED IN MARX-ENGELS PLATZ. ON THE SAME EVENING A GALA RECEPTION AND BALL WAS GIVEN AT THE PALAST DER REPUBLIK BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE LAVISH FESTIVITIES INCLUDED DINNER, DANCING AND A FULL PROGRAM OF ENTERTAINMENT. ATTENDING WERE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, GOVERNMENT LEADERS, CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF A WIDE RANGE OF INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING SPORTS, ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES, YOUTH GROUPS AND CULTURE. HONECKER WAS IN A FESTIVE MOOD AND DANCED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND NO LITTLE SKILL.

4. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS STOPH GAVE AN ADDRESS DURING THE EVENING EVENT WHICH PREDICTABLY UNDERScoreD THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE SOVIET UNION AND MADE SPECIAL NOTE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW SOVIET CONSTITUTION.

5. GDR PRESENCE AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE SECTOR CROSSING POINT WAS REINFORCED BY THE ADDITION OF AN ARMORED PERSONNEE CARRIER AND A HEAVY TRACKED VEHICLE, APPARENTLY A TRACTOR OR BRIDGING VEHICLE.

6. AMONG THOSE MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO WHO WERE NOT MENTIONED IN THE OFFICIAL PRESS REPORTS AS ATTENDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PARADE AND EVENING CELEBRATIONS WERE GERHARD GRUENEBERG AND KURT HAGER. IN THE CASE OF GRUENEBERG, HIS ABSENCE MAY LEND SOME CREDENCE TO THE RUMOR THAT HE IS UNDER A CLOUD BECAUSE OF THE POOR AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE THIS SUMMER. BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

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